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(54) Image processing method and apparatus

Bildverarbeitungsverfahren und -vorrichtung

Procédé et appareil de traitement d'images

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(73) Proprietor: **CANON KABUSHIKI KAISHA**
Tokyo (JP)

(72) Inventor: **Nakajima, Nobuyuki**
Ohta-ku, Tokyo (JP)

(74) Representative:
Beresford, Keith Denis Lewis et al
BERESFORD & Co.
2-5 Warwick Court,
High Holborn
London WC1R 5DH (GB)

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Description

[0001] The present invention relates to the field of colour matching processing of data.

[0002] Image processing apparatuses which perform color matching processing for correcting the difference between color representation capabilities on a plurality of image output devices are on market recently. In such apparatuses, a single color matching is applied to a single output image, for example.

[0003] In the color matching processing in the conventional image processing apparatuses, however, in a case where a plurality of objects having different attributes are included in a single output image, it is not possible to perform color matching processing suitable for each object. Therefore, if the plurality of objects which are processed with an identical color matching processing are outputted as a single image to a plurality of image output devices, a problem of deterioration of the output image quality (e.g., color, density balance of the overall image, brightness) arises.

[0004] WO-A-96/01467 discloses a method and system for embedding a device profile into a document and extracting a device profile from a document in a color management system. The method of embedding a device profile into a document includes allocating memory for a buffer, transferring the device profile or portions of the device profile into the buffer and writing the same in the document. The method of extracting a device profile from a document includes allocating memory for a buffer, reading the device profile or portions of the device profile from the document into the buffer and transferring the same to a file.

[0005] EP-A-0674289 discloses a method of automatically optimising the controllable parameters related to producing printed material on a hardcopy output device. Users require different types of printed objects to have different characteristics. Specifically, business graphics need to be sharp and vivid, photographic images should look realistic, and text must be black, crisp and clear. EP-A-0674289 states that by extracting, analysing and conditioning data generated during a printing stream, the various regions of text, graphics and photographic images on a sheet are distinguished, characterized, and printed.

[0006] The present invention has been made in consideration of the above situation. The present invention provides an image processing apparatus for performing colour matching processing as set out in claim 1.

[0007] The present invention also provides a method of performing colour matching processing as set out in claim 7.

[0008] The present invention further provides a computer program product as set out in claim 13.

[0009] Optional features are set out in claims 2 to 6, 8 to 12 and 14.

[0010] In embodiments, it is possible to perform colour matching processing suitable for each object on the basis of the colour representation capability of a source device which generates color image data of the object, depending upon user's utilization of the image including the object, thereby obtaining a high-quality output image.

[0011] Embodiments of the present invention will now be described in detail in accordance with the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a block diagram illustrating a general configuration of an image processing system according to a typical embodiment of the present invention;
Fig. 2 is a flowchart showing an example of processing performed by a color matching unit in the host device shown in Fig. 1;
Fig. 3 is a flowchart showing an example of processing performed by a printer color processing unit and a gray compensation unit shown in Fig. 1;
Fig. 4 depicts an example of displayed images used for setting color processing mode in an operation unit shown in Fig. 1;
Fig. 5 depicts an example of an image; and
Fig. 6 is a block diagram illustrating a general configuration of an image processing system according to another embodiment of the present invention.

[0012] Fig. 1 is a block diagram illustrating a brief configuration of an image processing system according to a typical embodiment of the present invention. This system is basically configured with a host device 10 and a printer 60 as shown in Fig. 1.

[0013] To the host device 10, a monitor 51, a display device, for visually displaying a processed image, a scanner 52 for reading an original image, and an operation unit 53 from which an operator can input and designate various kinds of setting information are connected in addition to the printer 60. A designation device, such as a keyboard, are provided to the operation unit 53.

[0014] Further, the host device 10 includes a driver 20 for outputting each image, which will be explained later, to the printer 60, a profile storage 30 for storing a source profile corresponding to a source device set by the operation unit 53 and a printer profile corresponding to the printer 60, and a CPU 40 which is a controlling unit for controlling the overall operation of the host device in accordance with a control sequence, shown in Fig. 2 which will be explained later, stored in an internal memory (MEM). Further, the driver 20 contains a color matching unit 21 and a γ correction processing unit 22.

[0015] The driver 20, the profile storage 30, and the CPU 40 are connected with each other via a CPU bus. It should be noted that the source device here is a device on which color image data depends. Further, the source profile and the printer profile hold information on color representation characteristics of the source device and the printer, respectively.

[0016] Further, the printer 60 includes a controller 70

for transmitting/receiving various kinds of control data to/from the host device 10 and performing image processing, which will be explained later, on print data from the host device 10; an engine 80 for forming a permanent visual image on a print paper sheet on the basis of the print data from the controller 70 in accordance with control from the controller 70; and a CPU 90 for controlling the overall operation of the printer 60 in accordance with a control sequence, shown in Fig. 3, for example, which is stored in an internal memory (MEM).

[0017] The controller 70 comprises a printer color processing unit 71, a gray compensation unit 72, a halftone processing unit 73, and a gray determination unit 74.

[0018] The host device 10 inputs an image data obtained by reading an original, such as a photograph, by the scanner 52 to the driver 20. Further, it also generates image data, including image data corresponding to an image generated while confirming the image displayed on the monitor 51 by executing an application program, which is expressed in a page description language (PDL) for printing out the image, and outputs the image data to the driver 20.

[0019] Here, the output image includes a plurality of objects having different attributes as shown in Fig. 5, for example. In Fig. 5, reference numeral 1 denotes a natural image, such as a photograph, 2; a graphic image; and 3, a text image.

[0020] The driver 20 performs color processing, under control of the CPU 40, corresponding to a color processing mode set for color data of the image data by the operation unit 53.

[0021] Next, a flow of the processing performed by the color matching unit 21 of the driver 20 is explained with reference to a flowchart shown in Fig. 2.

[0022] First at step S10, image data expressed in PDL is inputted. The image data expressed in PDL includes a drawing command and color data. Next at step S11, the attribute of an object including the image data inputted at step S10 is determined on the basis of the drawing command included in the input image data. In this determination process, it is determined whether the input image data is data of a natural image, such as a photograph, or graphic data, or text data.

[0023] At step S12, the source profile corresponding to the source device set by the operation unit 53 and the printer profile corresponding to the printer 60 are read from the profile storage 30, and both profiles are set. Then at step S13, the color matching mode (details are explained later), set by operation unit 53, is set.

[0024] At step S14, the color matching processing, corresponding to the source device of the color data, is performed on the color data on the basis of the source profile which has been read from the profile storage 30 and set. Next at step S15, color matching processing corresponding to the printer is performed on the basis of the attribute of the object including the image data determined at step S11, the printer profile set at step S12, and the color matching mode set at step S13, by using a three dimensional look-up table (LUT) stored in the printer profile.

[0025] By performing the color matching processing, it is possible to adjust the difference between color expression characteristics, such as color representation capabilities, of a source device (e.g., scanner 52 and monitor 51) and the printer 60, thereby increasing the quality of the output image.

[0026] The color matching processing corresponding to the source device in this embodiment is to convert color data which depends upon the source device into color data which is independent of a device on the basis of the source profile. More specifically, color data is converted into L*a*b* data, for example, by using matrix coefficients stored in the source profile.

[0027] Further, the color matching processing corresponding to the printer in this embodiment is to perform color space compression in the L*a*b* color space, for example, in accordance with color representation capability of the printer and convert L*a*b* data to RGB data by using the three-dimensional LUT.

[0028] In this embodiment, following three methods are available as color matching methods (CMM).

(1) Color-Priority CMM

[0029] Color-priority CMM is suitable for a natural image, such as a photograph. In the color-priority CMM, hue and color tonality of an image are given top priority, and the overall image is mapped into the color gamut of the printer 60 so that the number of color-levels which exist beyond the color gamut of the printer 60 are preserved.

(2) Saturation-Priority CMM

[0030] Saturation-priority CMM is suitable for a graphic image generated by using an application software on the host device 10. The graphic image is generated by using an application while the user confirming the graphic image displayed on a monitor. Therefore, the reproduction of bright colors in the displayed image, i.e., the chromaticness of the image, is given top priority. Therefore, color component data existing beyond the color gamut of a printer is mapped into the color gamut of the printer so as to preserve the chromatic components of the color component data.

(3) Colorimetric Matching CCM

[0031] Colorimetric matching CCM is suitable for a text image, such as character and logotype, generated while being designated to a specific color by a user in an application. In colorimetric matching CCM, color component data is mapped to the color gamut of a printer such that the color difference (ΔE) between the input image and the output image becomes the minimum so

as to faithfully reproduce the specific color.

[0032] Meanwhile, the γ correction processing unit 22 applies γ correction by using a one-dimensional LUT to each color component included in color component data on the basis of a γ correction value set by the operation unit 53 regardless of the attribute of the object which includes the color component data.

[0033] The changeover between the operations of the color matching unit 21 and the γ correction processing unit 22, i.e., the changeover between the color matching processing and the γ correction processing, is performed by the CPU 40 on the basis of a color processing mode manually set by the operation unit 53 depending upon user's utilization of an image.

[0034] It is possible to adjust the difference in color representation capability between devices, such as difference between color gamuts of a source device and the printer 60, as well as increase the quality of an output image by performing the color matching processing. However, it takes a considerably long time to perform color matching processing corresponding to a source device and a printer. In contrast, the γ correction in this embodiment performs the same γ correction on all the objects in an image by using the one-dimensional LUT. Therefore, high-speed processing is possible, although the image quality is not as high as the one applied with the color matching processing.

[0035] In consideration of the aforesaid processing characteristics, a user sets which color processing is to be performed from the operation unit 53, thereby realizing color processing suitable to the user's utilization.

[0036] The CPU 40 controls the color processing performed by the driver 20 as well as notifies the CPU 90 of the printer 60 of a color processing mode set by the operation unit 53 by using a command 91.

[0037] In response to this notification, the CPU 90 of the printer 60 controls the controller 70 to perform color processing on the color data of the image, expressed in the PDL, which is input from the host device 10 on the basis of the designated color processing mode notified by the command 91, and converts RGB data inputted from the driver 20 into CMYK data corresponding to the output characteristics of the printer 60.

[0038] Color processings performed by the controller 70 will be explained below with reference to a flowchart shown in Fig. 3.

[0039] First, the CPU 90 sets the color processing mode to be used in the controller 70 to the gray determination unit 74 on the basis of the command 91 from the host device 10 at step S37. More specifically, whether or not a gray compensation is to be performed on objects of different attributes (i.e., whether or not turning on the gray compensation) is set.

[0040] Next at step S38, the CPU 90 instructs the controller 70 to input image data, expressed in the PDL, transmitted from the host device 10. Then at step S39, the CPU 90 controls the gray determination unit 74 to determine the attribute of an object on the basis of the drawing command included in the image data, similarly to step S11 shown in Fig. 2.

[0041] At step S40, the gray determination unit 74 detects whether the gray compensation process for the attribute of the object is set ON (to perform the gray compensation) or not in the color processing mode set at step S37 as a determination result performed at step S39. If the object is the one for which the gray compensation process is set ON as the determination result, the gray determination unit 74 further determines whether color component (RGB) data included in the image data of the object represents gray or not. More specifically, whether or not color component values of the RGB data are the same, i.e., whether R = G = B, is judged. If R = = B, i.e., if it is determined that the color is gray, the process moves to step S70 and the gray compensation is performed.

[0042] The gray compensation performed at step S70 is a process to convert color component data representing a gray color into data represented by K component of YMCK density data by using a predetermined three dimensional LUT which is preset in the gray compensation unit 72. Accordingly, the color is represented by using only one printing material, such as black ink and black toner. Note, the other components (Y, M, and C components) of the density data in this case are C = M = Y = 0.

[0043] By performing the aforesaid process, a possibility that printed positions of the Y, M, C and K printing materials for expressing a gray color by mixing these printing materials are slightly shifted because of an influence of masking and under color removal (UCR) processes is removed. Especially, in the low density gray portion, a problem in which any of Y, M and C colors stands out more than a gray color can be prevented.

[0044] The process proceeds to step S80 thereafter.

[0045] Whereas, if it is determined that the gray compensation is not set ON at step S40, or in a case where the color component data included in the image data is not determined as gray when the gray compensation is set ON, in other words, in a case where the image data belongs to an object for which the gray compensation is not set or represents colors other than gray, the process goes to step S50 where brightness-density conversion is performed.

[0046] In the brightness-density conversion at step S50, the RGB data is converted into YMC data. Then at step S60, masking and UCR processes corresponding to the output characteristics of a printer is applied to the YMC data, then YMCK data is generated. Thereafter, the process proceeds to step S80.

[0047] Half-tone process by the half-tone processing unit 73 is performed at step S80. More specifically, the half-tone processing unit 73 converts data expressed in the PDL to raster data which expresses each pixel in n levels (n: integer, n > 1) on the basis of the drawing command corresponding to the YMCK data generated at step S60 or S70, as well as performs half-tone process-

es, such as a γ correction and a dither process.

[0048] The color processing modes which can be set by a user from the operation unit 53 in this embodiment are combinations of the following two selections; the selection between color matching processing performed by the driver 20 and the γ correction, and the selection between ON and OFF of gray compensation performed by the controller 70.

[0049] ON or OFF of the gray compensation is determined in the following manner in this embodiment.

[0050] For example, there is a limit in view of an expressible gray tone range in a case where a single printing material, such as black ink and black toner, is utilized compared to a case where a gray color is expressed by using four printing materials, namely, Y, M, C and K printing materials.

[0051] Therefore, while putting weight on reproduction of a gray color, gray compensation is set in advance to be performed always (i.e., gray compensation ON) on a text image object whose tonality is not so important. Whereas, in processing a natural image, such as a photograph, which is an object where both the hue and tonality are important, gray compensation is set in advance not to be performed (i.e., gray compensation OFF).

[0052] As for a graphic image, there are cases where tonality of a gradation image, for example, is considered as an important factor and where reproduction of a gray color is considered as the important factor. Therefore, it is not appropriate to set the ON/OFF of the gray compensation in advance. Accordingly, the setting of the gray compensation for the graphic image is left to a manual instruction by a user.

[0053] According to the embodiment as described above, by setting the various selections of the color processing modes in advance as much as possible in consideration of color characteristics of a reproduced image, it is possible to reduce a number of manual instructions for complicated color processing mode settings, thereby reducing a load for setting operation by the user.

[0054] Next, a sequence for setting a color processing mode from the operation unit 53 according to the embodiment is explained with reference to Fig. 4.

[0055] Fig. 4 is an explanatory view showing an operation guidance displayed on a display screen of the monitor 51 for setting a color processing mode.

[0056] Since, it is necessary to set a color matching processing as well as gray compensation for each object in this embodiment, several recommendable patterns of color processing modes corresponding to print purposes are stored in a memory (MEM) in the host device 10 in order to make the complicated setting operation as easy as possible.

[0057] Accordingly, the user can select a desirable color processing mode from the set patterns of the color processing modes, corresponding to several print purposes, stored in the memory through or via the user interface (UI) shown by the display screen 100 in Fig. 4. The following four color processing modes, from which the user can select a desired color processing mode, are displayed on the display screen 100.

(1) Graphics

[0058] This color processing mode is suitable for an image which only includes objects of graphic images. In this mode, color matching processing based on the saturation-priority CMM is applied to all the objects as well as the gray compensation is set ON. When this color processing mode is set, since the process for determining the attribute of an object is not performed in the color matching processing, it is possible to process an image faster than processing the image in standard color processing mode (will be explained later).

(2) DTP (Desk Top Publishing)

[0059] This color processing mode is suitable for an image, to be formed on a single print paper sheet, including an object of a natural image, such as a photograph, for example, and an object or objects of attributes other than that of a natural image. For instance, it is suitable for an image, to be printed on a single print paper sheet, including the natural image 1, the graphic image 2, and the text image 3 as shown in Fig. 5.

[0060] In the example shown in Fig. 5, since an original of the natural image 1 is a photograph, its source device is the scanner 52. Further, since images of originals of the graphic image 2 and the text image 3 are displayed images on the monitor 51, their source device is the monitor 51. As described above, the source devices of the objects differ.

[0061] However, depending upon the user's utilization of the image, the image displayed on the monitor 51 which is obtained when arranging the layout of the objects on the monitor 51 may be treated as an original image. In this case, the source device of the natural image 1, the graphic image 2, and the text image 3 becomes the monitor 51.

[0062] However, in many cases, when a natural image and other object or objects of attributes other than that of a natural image are included in an image to be formed on a single print paper sheet, for example, source devices can not be fixed to one. Therefore, in this color processing mode, it is set to perform a different color matching processing for each object by using the preset default CMM, and the gray compensation is set ON so as to be executed, as well as the input guidance 120, shown in Fig. 4, is displayed on the monitor 51 to prompt a user to specify a source device for each object.

(3) CAD (Computer Aided Design)

[0063] In this color processing mode, since an image formed by using CAD is expressed by black thin lines,

the gray compensation is set ON so as to be executed. However, the color matching processing maps color component data to the color gamut of the printer, as described above, there is a possibility that the black thin lines are erased in the mapping process. Therefore, in this color processing mode, the color matching processing is set so as not to be performed in the driver 20. Instead, a recommended γ correction value is set so as to set γ correction being performed so that the black thin lines are reproduced for sure.

(4) Standard

[0064] In this color processing mode, the monitor 51 is assumed as a source device, color matching processing for each object is set to be performed by using the preset default CMM, and the gray compensation is set ON.

[0065] Note, in the color matching processing for each object using the default CMM, attributes of objects and the CCM are set as below.

Table 1

Attribute of Object	CMM
Natural Image	Color-Priority CCM
Graphic Image	Saturation-Priority CCM
Text Image	Colorimetric Matching CCM

[0066] When a user selects the print purpose from the menu on the displayed image 100 shown in Fig. 4 using the operation unit 53, the subsequent menus, such as the input guidance 110 and the input guidance 120, which correspond to the selected print purpose are displayed on the display screen of the monitor 51.

[0067] When the user selects "MANUAL" in the input guidance 110, ON/OFF of the gray compensation and various options, shown in the input guidance 120, can be arbitrary set.

[0068] In the input guidance 120, it is possible to set the CMM and the source device for each object by selecting the object and a color matching processing. Further, by selecting "all objects" in the "OBJECT" box, the same CMM to be is performed on all the object regardless of their attributes. In this setting, it is possible to process the image faster than to perform a particular color matching processing for each object.

[0069] Note, the γ correction which is performed when the color matching processing is not performed is applied to all the object by using an identical parameter. This setting is to perform the γ correction at high speed.

[0070] According to this embodiment as described above, since color processing modes corresponding to a plurality of typical print purposes (i.e., types of images to be outputted) are prepared in advance, complicated setting operation of each option for a color processing mode can be omitted if one of the set color processing modes suits for the user's utilization of an image, thereby reducing the working load of the user.

[0071] Further, detailed options on the set color processing mode from the print purpose selection can be delicately adjusted by selecting "MANUAL" in a color mode of the input guidance 110.

[0072] It should be noted that the input color is determined to be gray if all the R, G and B component data have an identical value (i.e., R = G = B), however, some allowance for the determination may be set so that the color whose R, G and B color component data have the relationship, R ≈ G ≈ B, is determined as gray.

<Other Embodiment>

[0073] Embodiments of the invention may comprise a system constituted by a plurality of devices (e.g., host computer, interface, reader, printer) or an apparatus comprising a single device (e.g., copying machine, facsimile machine).

[0074] Further, it goes without saying that embodiments may be attained by supplying a program to a system or apparatus.

[0075] Further, embodiments can be also achieved by providing a storage medium storing program codes for performing the aforesaid processes to a system or an apparatus, reading the program codes with a computer (e.g., CPU, MPU) of the system or apparatus from the storage medium, then executing the program.

[0076] In this case, the image processing system shown in Fig. 1 can be replaced by a system configuration as shown in Fig. 6. In this configuration, color matching processing or γ correction processing performed by the driver 20 are realized by executing programs (e.g., color matching processing program and γ correction processing program) supplied from a floppy disk, a CD-ROM, or the like, by a high performance CPU 40' provided in the host device 10. Meanwhile, the high performance CPU 90' provided in the printer 60 installs programs (e.g., gray determination processing program, gray compensation processing program, printer color processing program, half-tone processing program), which are provided from a floppy disk, a CD-ROM, and the like, and loaded down from the host device 10, in its internal memory, and performs the gray determination processing, gray compensation processing, printer color processing, half-tone processing, and so on, on input data. Note that, in Fig. 6, a numeral 54 denotes a floppy disk drive and a numeral 55 denotes a CD-ROM drive.

[0077] In this case, the program codes read from the storage medium realize the functions according to the embodiment, and the storage medium storing the program codes is an embodiment of the invention.

[0078] Further, the storage medium, such as a floppy disk, a hard disk, an optical disk, a magneto-optical disk, CD-ROM, CD-R, a magnetic tape, a non-volatile type memory card, and ROM can be used for providing the

program codes.

[0079] Furthermore, besides aforesaid functions according to the above embodiment are realized by executing the program codes which are read by a computer, embodiments may comprise an OS (operating system) or the like working on the computer performing a part or entire processes in accordance with designations of the program codes.

[0080] Furthermore, embodiments may also include a case where, after the program codes read from the storage medium are written in a function expansion card which is inserted into the computer or in a memory provided in a function expansion unit which is connected to the computer, CPU or the like contained in the function expansion card or unit performs a part or entire process in accordance with designations of the program codes and realizes functions of the above embodiment.

Claims

1. An image processing apparatus (10) for performing colour matching processing of data defining a page containing a plurality of objects of different types (Figure 5), the apparatus comprising:

   setting means (40) responsive to user input instructions for setting a respective source device for each type of object;
   determination means (40) for processing the data defining the page to determine the respective type of each object on the page (S11); and colour matching means (21) operable to perform a respective colour matching process (S13) for each different object type identified by the determination means in dependence upon a device profile defining colour representation characteristics of the source device set by the setting means for the object type.

2. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the colour matching means (21) is further operable to perform a second respective colour matching process (S14) for each different object type identified by the determination means in dependence upon an output device profile defining colour representation characteristics of an output device for outputting the page.

3. An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the colour matching means (21) is arranged to perform the second respective colour matching process for each object type identified by the determination means in dependence upon an output device profile and also in dependence upon a colour matching mode set for the object type.

4. An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the setting means (40) is responsive to user input instructions for setting a respective colour matching mode for each type of object.

5. An apparatus according to any preceding claim, further comprising colour processing means (70;90) for performing colour processing (Figure 3) of data processed by the colour matching means in dependence upon the types of object on the page and the output characteristics of an output device for outputting the page.

6. An apparatus according to any preceding claim, further comprising an image former for forming an image of the page.

7. A method of performing colour matching processing of data defining a page containing a plurality of objects of different types (Figure 5), the method comprising:

   setting a respective source device for each type of object in accordance with user input instructions;
   processing the data defining the page to determine the respective type of each object on the page (S11); and
   performing a respective colour matching process (S13) for each different object type identified on the page in dependence upon a device profile defining colour representation characteristics of the source device set for the object type in accordance with the user input instructions.

8. A method according to claim 7, further comprising performing a second respective colour matching process (S14) for each different object type identified on the page in dependence upon an output device profile defining colour representation characteristics of an output device for outputting the page.

9. A method according to claim 8, wherein the second respective colour matching process for each object type identified on the page is performed in dependence upon an output device profile and also in dependence upon a colour matching mode set for the object type.

10. A method according to claim 9, wherein a respective colour matching mode for each type of object is set in accordance with user input instructions.

11. A method according to any of claims 7 to 10, further comprising performing colour processing (Figure 3) of data on which a colour matching process has been performed, the colour processing (Figure 3) being performed in dependence upon the types of

object on the page and the output characteristics of an output device for outputting the page.

12. A method according to any preceding claim, further comprising forming an image of the page.

13. A computer program product comprising a carrier carrying instructions for causing a programmable processing apparatus to become operable to perform a method as set out in at least one of claims 7 to 12.

14. A computer program product according to claim 13 when embodied as a storage medium storing the instructions.

Patentansprüche

1. Bildverarbeitungsvorrichtung (10) zum Ausführen einer Farbanpaßverarbeitung von Daten, die eine Seite festlegen, die eine Vielzahl von Gegenständen unterschiedlicher Art (Fig. 5) enthält, mit:

   einem Einstellmittel (40), das anspricht auf vom Benutzer eingegebene Befehle zum Einstellen einer jeweiligen Quelleinrichtung für jede Gegenstandsart;
   einem Bestimmungsmittel (40) zum Verarbeiten der Daten, die die Seite festlegen, um die jeweilige Art eines jeden Gegenstands auf der Seite zu bestimmen (S11) ; und mit
   einem Farbanpaßmittel (21), das betriebsbereit ist, einen jeweiligen Farbanpaßprozeß für jede unterschiedliche Gegenstandsart auszuführen (S13), die das Bestimmungsmittel in Abhängigkeit vom Einrichtungsprofil identifiziert, das vom Einstellmittel für die Gegenstandsart eingestellte Farbdarstelleigenschaften der Quelleinrichtung festlegt.

2. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 1, bei der das Farbanpaßmittel (21) des weiteren betriebsbereit ist, einen zweiten jeweiligen Farbanpaßprozeß für jede unterschiedliche Gegenstandsart auszuführen (S14), identifiziert durch das Bestimmungsmittel in Abhängigkeit vom ausgegebenen Einrichtungsprofil, das die Farbdarstellungseigenschaften von einer Ausgangseinrichtung zur Ausgabe der Seite festlegt.

3. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 2, bei der das Farbanpaßmittel (21) eingerichtet ist zum Ausführen des zweiten jeweiligen Farbanpaßprozesses für jede Gegenstandsart, identifiziert durch das Bestimmungsmittel in Abhängigkeit einerseits von einem ausgegebenen Einrichtungsprofil und andrerseits von einem für die Gegenstandsart eingestellten Farbanpaßmodus.

4. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 3, bei der das Einstellmittel (40) als Reaktion auf vom Anwender eingegebene Befehle zum Einstellen eines jeweiligen Farbanpaßmodus für jede Art von Gegenstand anspricht.

5. Vorrichtung nach einem der vorstehenden Ansprüche, die des weiteren über ein Farbverarbeitungsmittel (70, 90) verfügt, um eine Farbverarbeitung (Fig. 3) von Daten auszuführen, die das Farbanpaßmittel in Abhängigkeit von Arten des Gegenstands auf der Seite verarbeitet hat und den Ausgabeeigenschaften einer Ausgabeeinrichtung zur Ausgabe der Seite.

6. Vorrichtung nach einem der vorstehenden Ansprüche, die des weiteren über einen Bilderzeuger verfügt, um ein Bild der Seite zu erzeugen.

7. Verfahren zum Ausführen einer Farbanpaßverarbeitung von Daten, die eine Seite festlegen, die eine Vielzahl von Gegenständen verschiedener Art (Fig. 5) enthält, mit den Verfahrensschritten:

   Einstellen einer jeweiligen Quelleinrichtung für jede Art von Gegenstand gemäß vom Anwender eingegebenen Befehlen;
   Verarbeiten der Daten, die die Seite festlegen, um die jeweilige Art eines jeden Gegenstands auf der Seite zu bestimmen (S11) ; und
   Ausführen eines jeweiligen Farbanpaßprozesses (S13) für jede unterschiedliche Gegenstandsart, identifiziert auf der Seite in Abhängigkeit von einem Einrichtungsprofil, das Farbdarstelleigenschaften von der Quelleinrichtung festlegt, eingestellt für die Gegenstandsart gemäß vom Anwender eingegebenen Befehlen.

8. Verfahren nach Anspruch 7, das des weiteren über den Verfahrensschritt des Ausführens eines zweiten jeweiligen Farbanpaßprozesses (S14) für jede unterschiedliche Gegenstandsart verfügt, nachgewiesen auf der Seite in Abhängigkeit von einem ausgegebenen Einrichtungsprofil, das Farbdarstelleigenschaften einer Ausgabeeinrichtung zur Ausgabe der Seite festlegt.

9. Verfahren nach Anspruch 8, bei dem der zweite jeweilige Farbanpaßprozeß für jede auf der Seite nachgewiesene Objektart zur Ausführung kommt in Abhängigkeit einerseits von einem ausgegebenen Einrichtungsprofil und andrerseits von einem für die Gegenstandsart eingestellten Farbanpaßmodus.

10. Verfahren nach Anspruch 9, bei dem ein jeweiliger Farbanpaßmodus für jede Art von Gegenstand gemäß vom Anwender eingegebenen Befehlen eingestellt wird.

11. Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 7 bis 10, das des weiteren den Verfahrensschritt des Ausführens einer Farbverarbeitung (Fig. 3) von Daten umfaßt, bezüglich der ein Farbanpaßprozeß ausgeführt wurde, wobei die Farbverarbeitung (Fig. 3) in Abhängigkeit von der Art des Gegenstands auf der Seite und den Ausgabeeigenschaften einer Ausgabeeinrichtung zur Ausgabe der Seite erfolgt.

12. Verfahren nach einem der vorstehenden Ansprüche, das des weiteren über den Verfahrensschritt des Erzeugens eines Bildes der Seite verfügt.

13. Computerprogrammprodukt mit einem Träger, der Befehle zum Veranlassen einer programmierbaren Verarbeitungsvorrichtung trägt, betriebsbereit zu werden, um ein Verfahren auszuführen, wie es in wenigstens einem der Ansprüche 7 bis 12 angegeben ist.

14. Computerprogrammprodukt nach Anspruch 13, das als die Befehle speicherndes Speichermedium ausgeführt ist.

Revendications

1. Appareil (10) de traitement d'image pour effectuer un traitement d'adaptation de couleur de données définissant une page contenant une pluralité d'objets de différents types (figure 5), l'appareil comprenant :

   un moyen (40) d'établissement sensible à des instructions d'entrée de l'utilisateur pour établir un dispositif source respectif pour chaque type d'objet ;
   un moyen (40) de détermination pour traiter les données définissant la page afin de déterminer le type respectif de chaque objet sur la page (S11) ; et
   un moyen (21) d'adaptation de couleur pouvant fonctionner pour effectuer un processus d'adaptation de couleur respectif (S13) pour chaque type d'objet différent identifié par le moyen de détermination en fonction d'un profil de dispositif définissant des caractéristiques de représentation de couleur du dispositif source établi par le moyen d'établissement pour le type d'objet.

2. Appareil selon la revendication 1, dans lequel le moyen (21) d'adaptation de couleur peut en outre fonctionner pour effectuer un deuxième processus d'adaptation de couleur respectif (S14) pour chaque type d'objet différent identifié par le moyen de détermination en fonction d'un profil de dispositif de sortie définissant des caractéristiques de représentation de couleur d'un dispositif de sortie pour délivrer la page.

3. Appareil selon la revendication 2, dans lequel le moyen (21) d'adaptation de couleur est agencé pour effectuer le deuxième processus d'adaptation de couleur respectif pour chaque type d'objet identifié par le moyen de détermination en fonction d'un profil de dispositif de sortie et aussi en fonction d'un mode d'adaptation de couleur établi pour le type d'objet.

4. Appareil selon la revendication 3, dans lequel le moyen (40) d'établissement est sensible à des instructions d'entrée de l'utilisateur pour établir un mode d'adaptation de couleur respectif pour chaque type d'objet.

5. Appareil selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, comprenant en outre un moyen (70 ; 90) de traitement de couleur pour effectuer un traitement de couleur (figure 3) de données traitées par le moyen d'adaptation de couleur en fonction des types d'objets sur la page et des caractéristiques de sortie d'un dispositif de sortie pour délivrer la page.

6. Appareil selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, comprenant en outre un dispositif de formation d'image pour former une image de la page.

7. Procédé d'exécution d'un traitement d'adaptation de couleur de données définissant une page contenant une pluralité d'objets de différents types (figure 5), le procédé comprenant :

   l'établissement d'un dispositif source respectif pour chaque type d'objet en fonction d'instructions d'entrée de l'utilisateur ;
   le traitement des données définissant la page afin de déterminer le type respectif de chaque objet sur la page (S11) ; et
   l'exécution d'un processus d'adaptation de couleur respectif (S13) pour chaque type d'objet différent identifié sur la page en fonction d'un profil de dispositif définissant des caractéristiques de représentation de couleur du dispositif source établi pour le type d'objet en fonction des instructions d'entrée de l'utilisateur.

8. Procédé selon la revendication 7, comprenant en outre l'exécution d'un deuxième processus d'adaptation de couleur respectif (S14) pour chaque type d'objet différent identifié sur la page en fonction d'un profil de dispositif de sortie définissant des caractéristiques de représentation de couleur d'un dispositif de sortie pour délivrer la page.

9. Procédé selon la revendication 8, dans lequel le deuxième processus d'adaptation de couleur respectif pour chaque type d'objet identifié sur la page est effectué en fonction d'un profil de dispositif de sortie et aussi en fonction d'un mode d'adaptation de couleur établi pour le type d'objet.

10. Procédé selon la revendication 9, dans lequel un mode d'adaptation de couleur respectif pour chaque type d'objet est établi en fonction d'instructions d'entrée de l'utilisateur.

11. Procédé selon l'une quelconque des revendications 7 à 10, comprenant en outre l'exécution d'un traitement de couleur (figure 3) de données sur lesquelles un processus d'adaptation de couleur a été effectué, le traitement de couleur (figure 3) étant effectué en fonction des types d'objets sur la page et des caractéristiques de sortie d'un dispositif de sortie pour délivrer la page.

12. Procédé selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, comprenant en outre la formation d'une image de la page.

13. Produit formant programme d'ordinateur comprenant un support portant des instructions pour conduire un appareil de traitement programmable à pouvoir fonctionner pour exécuter un procédé tel que décrit dans au moins l'une des revendications 7 à 12.

14. Produit formant programme d'ordinateur selon la revendication 13 lorsqu'il est mis en oeuvre en tant que support de stockage stockant les instructions.

FIG. 1

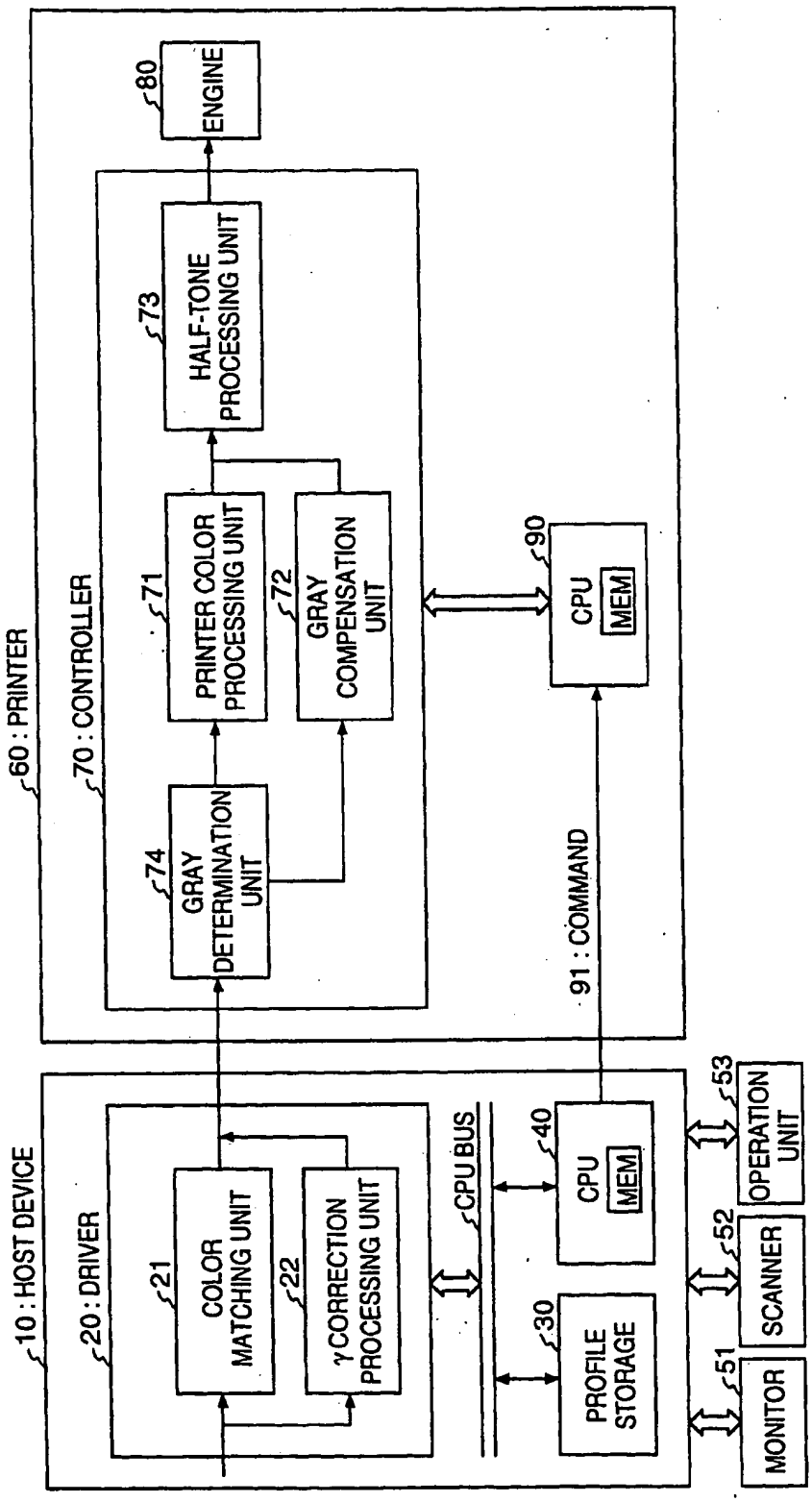

10 : HOST DEVICE
20 : DRIVER
21
COLOR MATCHING UNIT
22
γCORRECTION PROCESSING UNIT
CPU BUS
30
PROFILE STORAGE
40
CPU
MEM
51
MONITOR
52
SCANNER
53
OPERATION UNIT
60 : PRINTER
70 : CONTROLLER
71
PRINTER COLOR PROCESSING UNIT
72
GRAY COMPENSATION UNIT
73
HALF-TONE PROCESSING UNIT
74
GRAY DETERMINATION UNIT
80
ENGINE
90
CPU
MEM
91 : COMMAND

FIG. 2

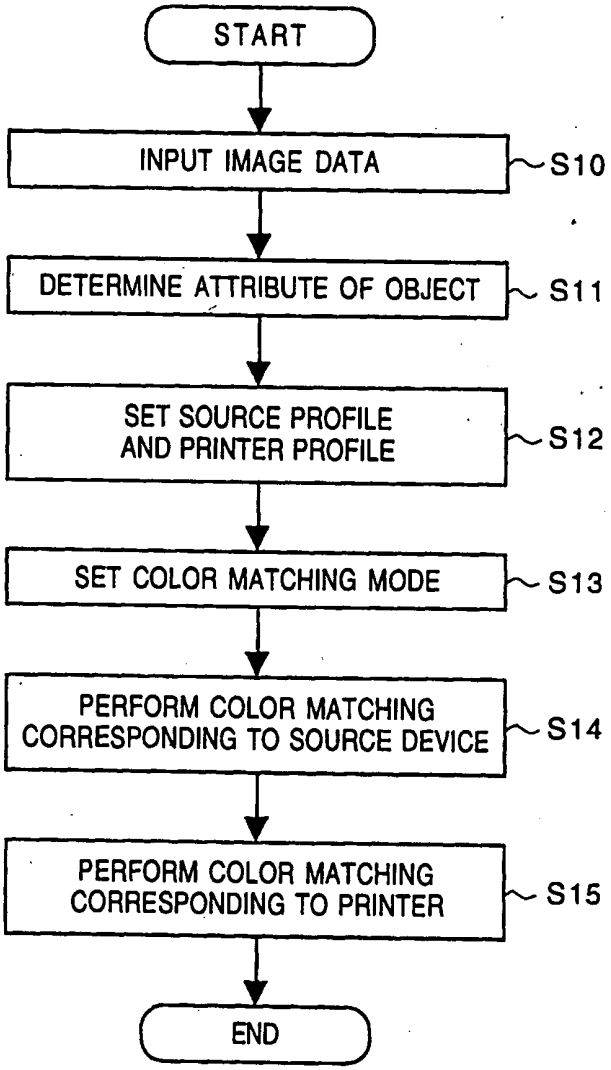

START
INPUT IMAGE DATA
S10
DETERMINE ATTRIBUTE OF OBJECT
S11
SET SOURCE PROFILE AND PRINTER PROFILE
S12
SET COLOR MATCHING MODE
S13
PERFORM COLOR MATCHING CORRESPONDING TO SOURCE DEVICE
S14
PERFORM COLOR MATCHING CORRESPONDING TO PRINTER
S15
END

FIG. 3

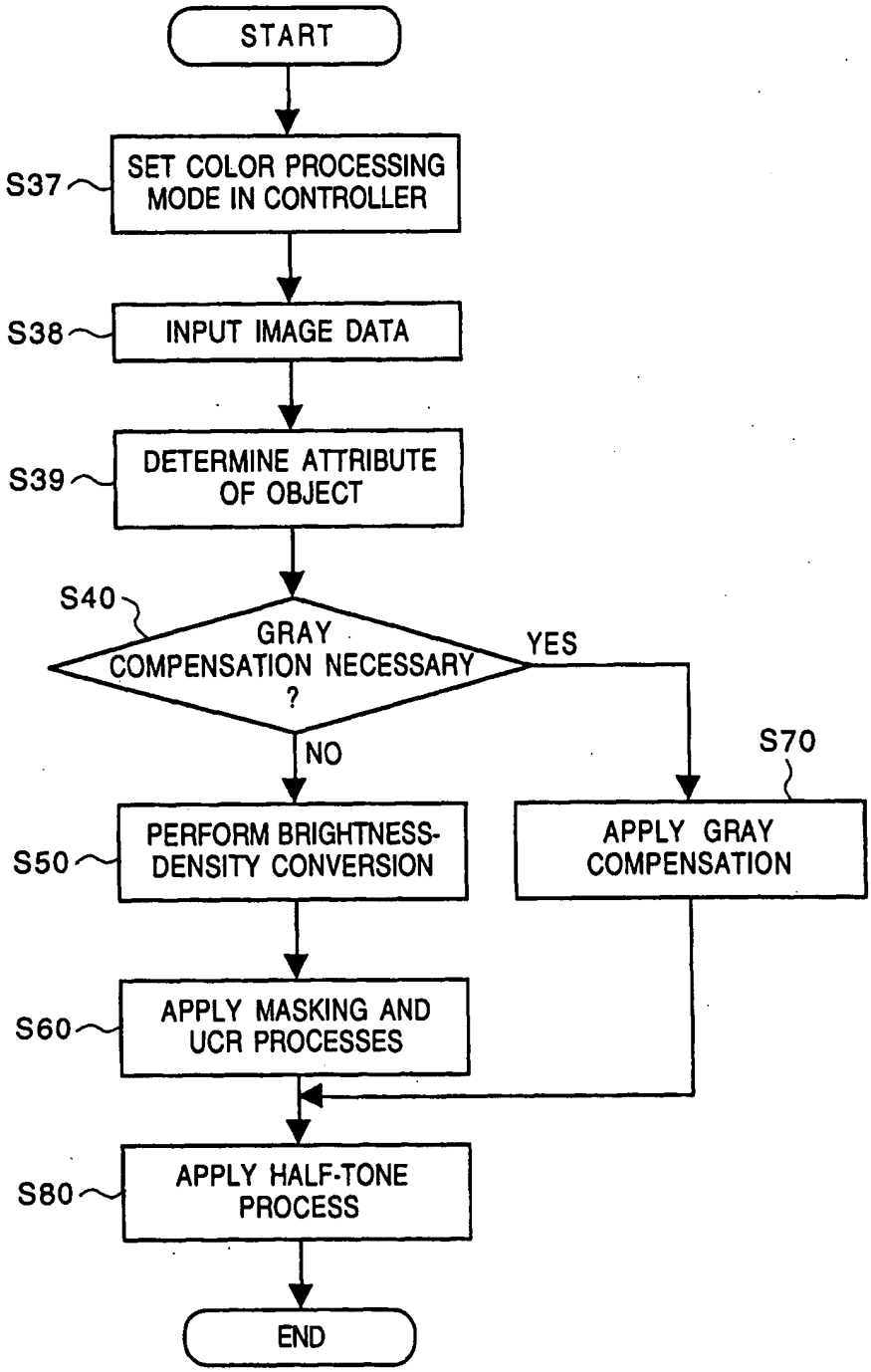

START
S37
SET COLOR PROCESSING MODE IN CONTROLLER
S38
INPUT IMAGE DATA
S39
DETERMINE ATTRIBUTE OF OBJECT
S40
GRAY COMPENSATION NECESSARY ?
YES
NO
S70
APPLY GRAY COMPENSATION
S50
PERFORM BRIGHTNESS-DENSITY CONVERSION
S60
APPLY MASKING AND UCR PROCESSES
S80
APPLY HALF-TONE PROCESS
END

FIG. 4

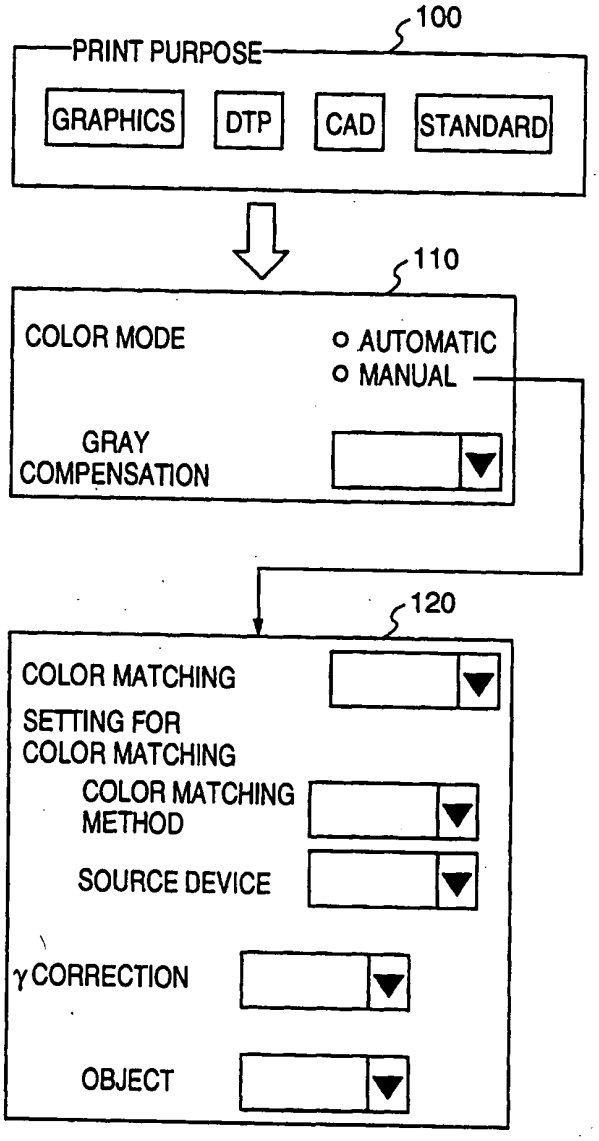

100
PRINT PURPOSE
GRAPHICS
DTP
CAD
STANDARD
110
COLOR MODE
AUTOMATIC
MANUAL
GRAY COMPENSATION
120
COLOR MATCHING
SETTING FOR COLOR MATCHING
COLOR MATCHING METHOD
SOURCE DEVICE
γ CORRECTION
OBJECT

FIG. 5

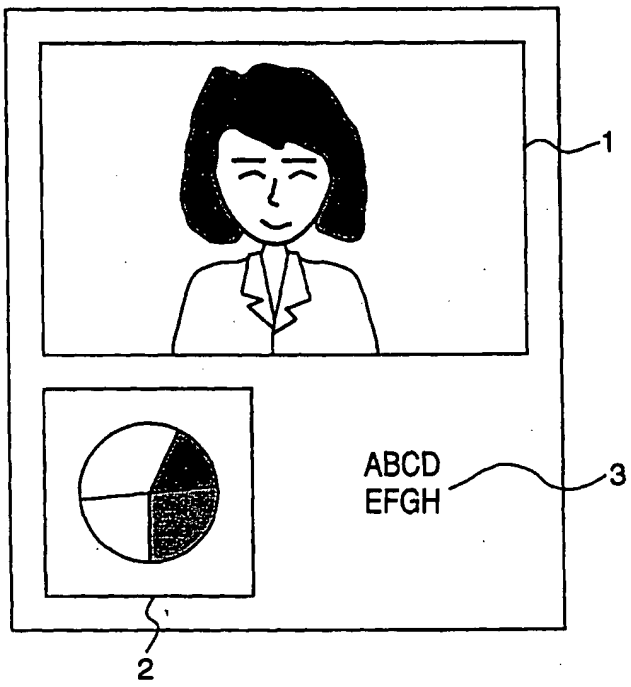
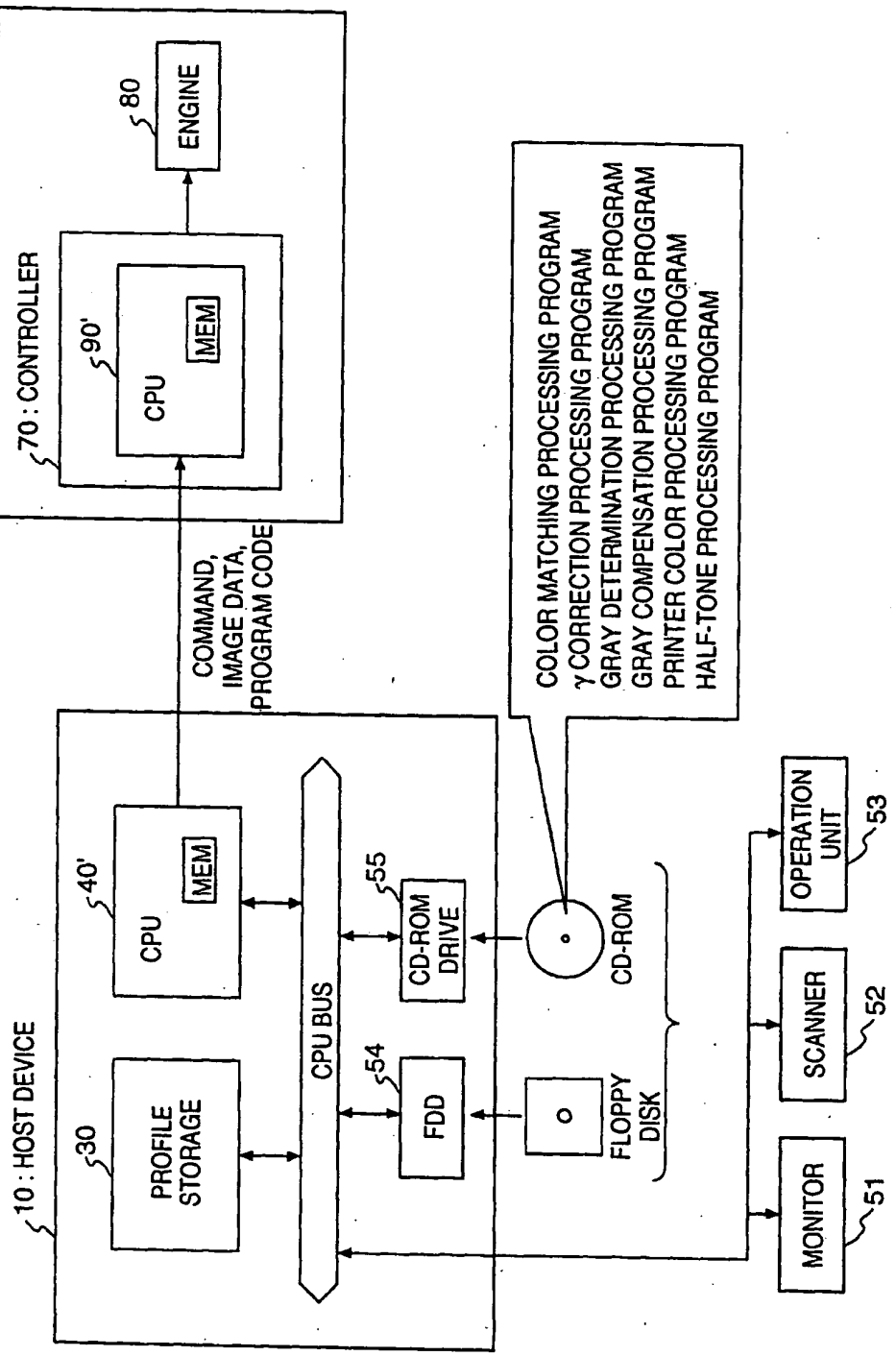


FIG. 6


60 : PRINTER
70 : CONTROLLER
90'
CPU
MEM
80
ENGINE
COMMAND,
IMAGE DATA,
PROGRAM CODE
COLOR MATCHING PROCESSING PROGRAM
γ CORRECTION PROCESSING PROGRAM
GRAY DETERMINATION PROCESSING PROGRAM
GRAY COMPENSATION PROCESSING PROGRAM
PRINTER COLOR PROCESSING PROGRAM
HALF-TONE PROCESSING PROGRAM
10 : HOST DEVICE
40'
CPU
MEM
30
PROFILE STORAGE
CPU BUS
55
CD-ROM DRIVE
54
FDD
FLOPPY DISK
CD-ROM
OPERATION UNIT
53
SCANNER
52
MONITOR
51